Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

MIC3 Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission

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Compact Overview and Introduction

- The goal of the compact is to replace the widely varying policies that affect transitioning military students with a comprehensive approach that provides a consistent policy in every school district and in every state that chooses to join.

- The compact addresses key transition issues encountered by military families including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility and graduation.

- Children of active duty members of the uniformed services, National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders, and Members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired for (1) year are eligible for assistance under the compact

Note – the compact applies to public schools only.

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Purpose

- Inform schools and families about the progress of the compact implementation
  - What the compact does *and doesn't* cover
  - Timeline for execution

- Manage expectations as some schools and families may think
  - Compact addresses more educational areas/issues than it does
  - Compact will be fully operational from the minute it is adopted

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Major Points

- Compact designed to resolve recognized education *transition* issues

- Compact not intended to impact curriculum or local standards of education
  - Recognizes responsibility of states and local education agencies
  - Would have been a major obstacle in obtaining state buy-in
  - The Department of Education is leading a task force examining national standards

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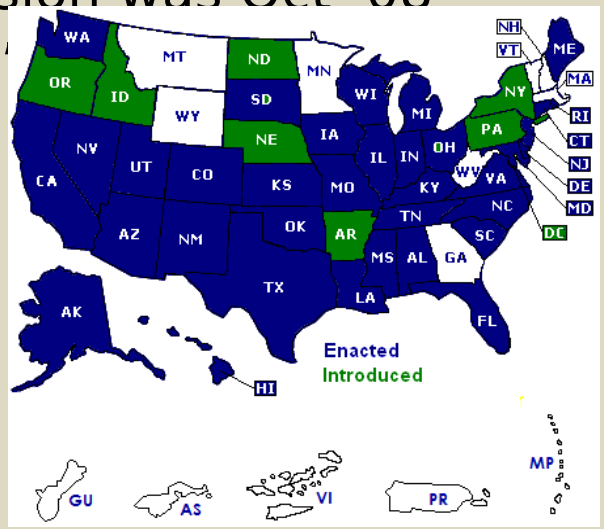
Background and Status

- Developed by The Department of Defense, with the assistance of The Council of State Governments
- Input and assistance from national associations, federal and state officials and departments of education and superintendents
- Adopted by 35 states (approximately 86 percent of military school-age children in the US) as of July 2010
- Initial meeting of the governing Commission was Oct ’08
- Second Commission meeting was in Nov
- States are in the process of establishing Councils
- Rules and Executive Committees have been meeting since 2009
- Compliance, Finance, and Training Committees began meeting in 2010



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Compact Content

- Article I – purpose
- Article II – definitions
- Article III – applicability
- **Article IV – enrollment**
- **Article V – placement and attendance**
- **Article VI – eligibility**
- **Article VII – graduation**
- Article VIII – state coordination
- Article IX – interstate commission

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Article IV - Enrollment: Educational Records

What's included:

- Parents can receive a copy of unofficial records
- Receiving school must accept the unofficial records to enroll and place the student pending reception of official records
- Sending school must send official records within 10 business days of receiving a request from the receiving school.

What's <u>not</u> covered:

- Giving parents the right to request a copy of every paper in the student file
- Receiving unofficial records free of charge

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Article IV - Enrollment: Immunizations

What's included:

- Child is given 30 days from enrollment to obtain required immunizations
- A series of immunizations must be started within 30 days of enrollment

What's <u>not</u> covered:

- **TB testing:** since it is a test rather than an immunization, the test may be required before enrollment

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Article IV - Enrollment: Kindergarten and First Grade Entrance Age

What's included:

- A student can continue in the same grade in the receiving state regardless of entrance age requirements if he or she has already enrolled in kindergarten or 1st grade in an accredited public or private school in the sending state and as long the student meets age requirements in the sending state and their academic credits are acceptable to the receiving school board
- A student may go to the next grade regardless of age requirements, if he or she has successfully

What's not covered:

- A student who has not been enrolled in kindergarten even though they are of eligible age to have started

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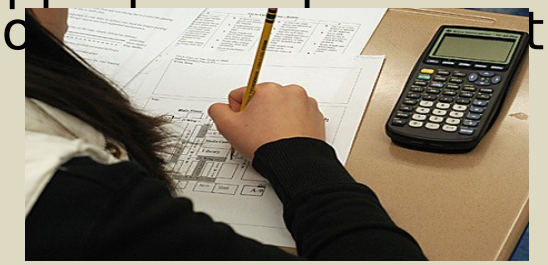
Article V - Placement and Attendance: Course and Educational Program Placement

What's included:

- Receiving state will initially honor placement in courses or programs based on the student's enrollment in the sending state
- Receiving state *may* subsequently perform an evaluation to ensure the appropriate placement and co[illegible]t



What's not covered:

- Guarantee of continued enrollment if not qualified
- Although the receiving school must demonstrate reasonable accommodation, there is no requirement to create a course or additional space

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Article V - Placement and Attendance: Special Education Services

What's included:

- Receiving state will initially provide the same services identified in the students Individual Education Plan from the sending state
- Receiving state *may* subsequently perform an evaluation to ensure the appropriate placement of the student

What's not covered:

- A requirement to provide the exact programs as sending state
- Anything above the requirements in the IDEA

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Article V - Placement and Attendance: Placement Flexibility

What's included:

- Allowing flexibility to the Local Education Agency (LEA) to waive course or program prerequisites or other preconditions if similar course work has been completed in another LEA.

What's not covered:

- Mandatory waivers of prerequisites or preconditions

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Article V - Placement and Attendance: Absence Related to Deployment Activities

What's included:

- Flexibility for additional excused absences to visit the parent or legal guardian due to <u>deployment</u>

  Note: Deployment window is defined as one month before the member's departure from her/his home station through six months after return to her

What's not covered:

- Requiring more than "reasonable accommodation"

  Note: this provision provides discretion and flexibility to the LEA and school superintendent during state testing periods or if the student has already missed so much school additional absences will be detrimental

Article VI – Eligibility: Eligibility for Enrollment

What's included:

- A LEA cannot charge tuition to military children placed in care of a non-custodial parent or person serving "in loco parentis"
- A student can continue to attend his or her current school even if living with a non-custodial parent or person serving "in loco parentis"
- The power of attorney for guardianship is sufficient for enrollment and all other actions requiring parental participation or consent

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Article VI – Eligibility: Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation

What's included:

- State and local agencies shall facilitate the ***opportunity*** for inclusion in extracurricular activities regardless of deadlines as long as the child is otherwise qualified

What's not covered:

- State student athletic associations, some of which are not affiliated with state or LEAs
- Although the receiving school must demonstrate reasonable accommodation, there is no requirement to hold open or cre spaces

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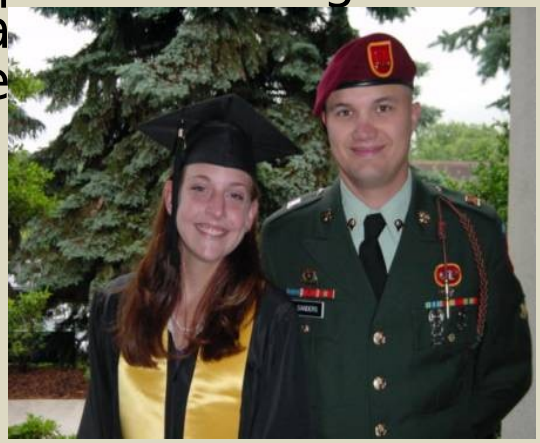
Article VII – Graduation

What's included:

- Waiving courses required for graduation if similar course work has been completed in another LEA
- Flexibility in accepting sending state exit or end of course exams, national achievement tests, or alternative testing in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the receiving state
- Allowing a student to receive a diploma from the sending school as an alternative to accommodations for exit exams and graduation requirements that the student doesn't have time to meet
- Should a waiver not be granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the LEA shall provide an

What's not covered:

- Mandatory waivers….although LEA must show good cause for a denial of waiver
- Mandatory waiver of the exam or acceptance of alternative results
- The right of parents to request a change of gra ts in the



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Reference Resources

- Interstate Commission and State Council information

  http://www.mic3.net

- FAQs

  http://www.mic3.net/pages/FAQ/faq_index.aspx

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The Compact provides a valuable tool to help our families!

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Questions????

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